States in support of State plans, funds have been specially allocated to the Government of Orissa under two components of the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana, namely, (i) Special Plan for the undivided Kalahandi-Bolangir-Koraput (KBK) districts; and (ii) Backward Districts initiative under which three districts of Orissa, namely, Ganjam, Mayurbhanj and Gajapati have been covered.

Criteria for BPL

†2498. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for assessing any person or family below the poverty line in the country;

(b) whether this assessment is carried out every year and if so, in what manner the common people are informed about the same;

(c) whether the number of persons living below the poverty line are increasing or decreasing every year; and

(d) the details thereof?.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The Planning Commission uses per capita consumption expenditure as the criterion to assess the number of persons living below the poverty line. The monthy per capita expenditure of Rs. 49.09 in rural areas and Rs. 56.64 in urban areas have been identified as the poverty lines at national level at 1973-74 prices. These poverty lines expressed in terms of per capita consumption expenditure conform to a consumption basket, which satisfied the calorie norm of per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 kilo calories in rural areas and 2100 kilo calories in urban areas and meets a minimum of non-food requirements, such as clothing, shelter, transport etc. Following the recommendations of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor (accepted in 1997), State-wise poverty lines are being calculated. These poverty lines are updated for the years corresponding to the large sample survey rounds of National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) on household consumption expenditure conducted approximately every

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

five years, using Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourers (CPIAL) for rural areas and Consumer Price Index of Industrial Workers (CPIIW) for urban areas. The latest round of NSSO, that is, the 55th Round was conducted in 1999-2000. The money values of these poverty lines in 1999-2000 are monthly per capita consumption expenditure of Rs. 327.56 in rural areas and Rs. 454.11 in urban areas.

(b) The assessment of persons below the poverty line is done by the Planning Commission once in approximately five years, based on the quinquennial large sample of the NSSO. The estimates of poverty lines as well as the assessment of number and proportion of persons living below the poverty line have been widely circulated in the media and through official channels.

(c) and (d) Based on last two large simple survey Rounds on household consumer expenditure conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation, that is, the 50th and 55th round, the number of persons living below the poverty line in the country declined from 320.4 million in 1993-94 to 260.3 million in 1999-2000.

Integrated Energy Policy

2499. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted an Expert Group to draft an Integrated Energy Policy under the Planning Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof including its members;

(c) if so, what would be its main functions; and

(d) by when it is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The order indicating the constitution of the committee, terms of reference and the time-frame for submission of the report is given in the Statement enclosed.